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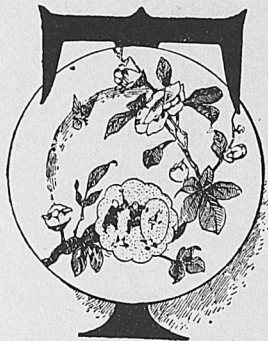
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MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

ART IN CATALOGUES.



THE Belcher Mosaic Glass Company, of New York, is about to publish a catalogue for their agents, and for architects, artists and interior decorators with whom they correspond, both in America and Europe. The catalogue consists of 61 plates of original mosaic designs, made by prominent artists especially for this mosaic glass, and is on hand-made paper, especially manufactured for this purpose, of the heaviest material known and with deckled edge. Each plate is hand painted, and the catalogue is purely a book of designs, with no outside help or advertisement to reduce the cost. Without a single exception this catalogue has been acknowledged to be the finest of its kind ever produced in the world, and is sure to make a marked sensation wherever shown. Some of the shading effects are marvels and could only be executed by this company in stained glass. Otherwise nothing short of canvas painting could equal it.

A JAPANESE ARTIST.

We take a great deal of pleasure in introducing to the public the Japanese artist, Shirayama Dani, whose drawings illustrate the article on Japanese art by Mr. Louis Wertheimer. The young man—he is only about 22 years of age—is a porcelain painter, inheriting his talent and his profession from his father. Until a year ago his work had been confined entirely to painting on porcelain in pure wash with a flat brush. He knew absolutely nothing of line drawing. He took up the study of that, however, by himself, and, as can be seen from the drawings which we give in this issue, has acquired a remarkable proficiency in that direction. It seems to us that these plates, the first work of the kind that he has shown to the public, declare their author to be an artist of very exceptional power. They are masterpieces in their way, and in beauty of conception, in truth and expression of line and general effect and in delicacy of handling we

should have far to go to find their superiors. It may interest artists to know that these drawings were made for reproduction not with pen and ink but with a finely-pointed brush. It scarcely seems credible, in view of the very delicate character of much of the work, but such is the fact. We shall publish other examples of the work of this artist in our November number. Some sixty or seventy of his drawings will illustrate a Japanese story entitled “A Muramasa Blade,” by Mr. Louis Wertheimer, to be published in a few weeks by Messrs. Ticknor & Company. At present he is taking and executing orders for painting on porcelain and for Japanese drawings at the Fujiyama store, 170 Tremont street, Boston.

ART CASTINGS.

Several new and important castings have recently been exhibited by the Magee Art Casting Company, of Chelsea, Mass. They show a decided advance over any previous work, inasmuch as the color is more effective and the castings are as finished as gold or silver plate. The Magee Company has made the best iron casting the world has ever produced, being a statuette of an Egyptian coquette. It is fair to presume that a concern that is able to make such exquisite art in details must be equally able to apply the same finish to their artistic stoves. This company was the first to use tiles in the construction of stoves, and in many other art features they have been the pioneers. Their liberal management and a love for the beautiful have accomplished much in the education of all classes.

ARTISTIC PIANO CASES.

In most of our household furniture the opportunity to imitate old forms and designs is unlimited. The upright piano, however, is quite a modern affair, and, being the largest object in the drawing-room, its adornment is a matter of great study with our large manufacturers. We mean those that originate for the smaller houses to appropriate. Few concerns in the world have aimed at a higher standard than Messrs. Chickering & Co., and, after many experiments, they have concluded that simplicity in ornament and perfect finish is superior to heavy carvings and filigree work. The natural woods have become popular and have been made largely on special

orders, but the mahogany, rose and other woods, well preserved in their pretty grainings, are generally sold. Ebonized wood with a slight gold tracing is also popular with this house, while lattice work is standard with every buyer. The Chickering piano starts with tone first, and construction accommodates itself more to simplicity than to much decoration. After all, this is about as near as the piano can be made without reversing the order of things. Ultimately it may be that metals will be used in lines and small objects such as the old Italians and French produced, but it is doubtful if this change will occur right away.

LECTURES ON ART.

Mr. Sidney Dickinson, the art lecturer, has already opened his autumn and winter season with a large list of engagements. As last year his work will be largely with colleges and other educational institutions, and if his time is not all taken up in the East he will probably visit the Western States, to which he has many invitations. The appreciation in which his lectures are held in the colleges is shown by the fact that Amherst College has recently bestowed upon him the degree of Master of Arts in recognition of his special studies in art. That his illustrated talks have strong popular interest is shown by his engagement in the Melrose Lyceum Course, with Hon. Charles Devens, Gen. Lew Wallace and others, and by his selection to open at North Easton the winter series of public entertainments provided by the corporation of which Lieutenant-Governor Ames is the head.

THE ADORNMENT OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Musical instruments of every nature and description, in all ages, have been objects upon which the handicraft of man has expended its most exquisite skill. In our day new instruments or methods of producing music have come into existence, and with them new forms to contain their mechanism. The interesting methods devised by many manufacturers, notably the Estey Organ Company, to construct their instruments in an artistic manner without being too

ornate or destroying their resonant qualities, are many and ingenious. Their cathedral organs are imposingly decorated with color, gilt pilastres, scrolls and solid carvings, while the parlor organs, which are far more difficult to ornament, possess the charm of compactness, graceful forms and lines and beauty of finish. In many thousands of homes these organs are the chief ornaments, and their niches, shelves and racks are often filled with pretty bits of bric-a-brac, which add to their decorative qualities. Truly this company has exercised a great influence in home comforts, and not a little of this has been due to a serious study of artistic designs in constructing cases.

A NOTABLE ART PUBLICATION.

Messrs. Nichols & Handy, of New York, will shortly publish an exceedingly important and valuable art work. It will be called "Twenty-five American Artists." It will be a purely American production made up of the contributions of living native artists reproduced in photogravure. The artists represented will be Abbey, Boughton, Eastman Johnson, Edward Moran, Shirlaw, Thomas Moran, C. Y. Turner, Percy Moran, Bruce Crane, Wiggins, Mayer, De Haas, Weldon, Miller, Bolton Jones, Fredericks, Witt, Alexander, F. C. Jones, Gaul, W. B. Baker, Millet and Beckwith. The plates are printed on India paper, mounted on heavy-plate paper, in size of 15x20 inches. Each plate is accompanied by appropriate descriptive, critical and biographical text provided by Mr. Alfred Trumble, a critic and authority whose command of his subject and mastery of his pen render him felicitously at home in his task. The text is embellished with initial letters, portraits of the artists and remarks of great variety and abundance, provided by themselves especially for this work, and printed in colors. The pictures include those by Mr. F. D. Millet and Mr. Percy Moran, which were awarded the chief prizes at the American Art Galleries and the National Academy exhibitions of this year. Pictures and text will be enclosed in a handsome portfolio, and this will be one of the most sumptuous publications of the season.

